

ASILOMAR

STATE BEACH AND CONFERENCE GROUNDS

VISITOR GUIDE ISSUE 12

Commemorating **150** of California State Parks
YEARS



150 YEARS



A Message from Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret.), Director, California State Parks

Dear California State Park Visitor,
In 1956, Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds joined the California State Park System when it was purchased from the YWCA for \$350,000, along with the understanding that it would continue to operate as a conference grounds, “providing an inspirational setting for all.” Following the legislative bill that was passed to secure Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds, contracts were written, directing Asilomar to function as a self-sustaining park unit, which does not use state funds for operational costs. Thus started a unique partnership of California State Parks working with various concessions since its inception, to manage the conference center and hospitality business at the park, with a portion of the financial proceeds being devoted to the sustainability of

COMMEMORATING 150 YEARS OF CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

President Hoover at Jedidiah Smith Redwoods SP, 1928

Asilomar State Park – a forerunner of the diverse relationships that would be created with many California State Park units over the years. Our current concession partner, Aramark, ensures that the legacy of the YWCA and Julia Morgan will continue to enhance the lives of visitors to Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds for generations to come.

Happy 150th Anniversary!

This year, 2014, California State Parks is commemorating its 150th Anniversary. The 150th Anniversary provides an opportunity for people to connect to their parks and to experience the diversity of the California State Parks System. There are currently 280 state parks, which contain the finest and most diverse collection of natural, cultural, and recreational resources to be found within California. These treasures are as diverse as California: From the last stands of primeval redwood forests to vast expanses of fragile desert, from the lofty Sierra Nevada mountains to the broad sandy beaches of our southern coast, and from the opulence of Hearst Castle to the vestiges of colonial Russia. California State Parks has

beaches, trails, wildlife areas, open spaces, off-highway vehicle areas, and historic sites. It consists of approximately 1.59 million acres, including over 339 miles of coastline, 974 miles of lake, reservoir and river frontage, approximately 15,000 campsites and alternative camping facilities, and 4,456 miles of non-motorized trails.

Our park system is more diverse than ever and truly illustrates the



YWCA Girls at Asilomar Train Stop, c.1915

mission of State Parks and the vision that was established back in 1864 by President Abraham Lincoln: to preserve and conserve our natural and cultural resources for future generations. The 150th Anniversary is also an opportunity to highlight the value and contribution of the California State Parks System to not only all Californians but also to the millions of visitors each year from outside the state.

It All Started When ...

We can trace the beginnings of California State Parks to June 30, 1864, when President Lincoln signed a bill granting Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees to the State of California "upon the express condition that the premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation, and shall be inalienable for all time." The following September 28th, California Governor Frederick Low issued a proclamation that accepted the federal grant and appointed the first State Park



**A GIFT FROM THE PEOPLE
TO THE PEOPLE**



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Commission. The first State Parks employee was Galen Clark, appointed as the State Guardian of Yosemite on May 21, 1866. These actions represented not only the birth of California State Parks, but, in essence, the birth of the national park idea which has spread internationally.

The California State Park System developed slowly after the establishment of Yosemite. In 1890, the Marshall Monument was created as the first historical state park; and, in 1891, Ezra Smith was appointed guardian of the monument. In 1902, the California Redwood Park at Big Basin (Santa Cruz) was established; in 1903, the first park warden, J.H.B. Pilkington, was appointed. Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were returned to the federal government in 1906 to become part of the larger Yosemite National Park. With this transfer, the Marshall Monument

(Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park) and Big Basin represent the oldest state parks in the current system.

The Sesquicentennial of our State Parks System is an important accomplishment on many fronts, and we want the public to experience State Parks as they were meant to be experienced.

Our parks are part of our identity as Californians and form an important component of people's lives. Come out and visit a State Park! For more information, visit www.parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,
Major General Anthony L. Jackson,
USMC (Ret.)
Director, California State Parks

WELCOME!

On behalf of **California State Parks** and our concessionaire partner, Aramark, we warmly welcome you to **Asilomar State Beach & Conference Grounds**. One of the most unique parks in our state, Asilomar's location is unparalleled. Situated on the tip of the Monterey Peninsula, its natural beauty of pine forest and sandy dunes is enhanced by the award-winning Arts and Crafts architecture of Julia Morgan.

Experience

Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds was



Eric Abma,
Asilomar State Park Superintendent

established from its beginning to be a financially sustainable park. Our partnership with Aramark enables Asilomar State Park to be independent of state funds for operational needs – all revenue for the park's operation is generated by you, the park visitor, through your lodging costs and additional purchases while staying in or visiting the park.

California State Parks and Aramark have a shared vision to provide a quality visitor experience for all. In 2014, a 15 million dollar project to upgrade Asilomar's pathways will be completed, bringing the conference grounds into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Lodging units are being altered to accommodate more visitors with

wheelchair or limited mobility requirements. New signage for roadways and buildings is being installed to help park visitors find buildings and meeting rooms, whether driving or walking.

The complementary relationship between California State Parks and Aramark creates the means of providing a positive and memorable experience at Asilomar – the "Refuge by the Sea."

Explore

Whether you are here to meet and confer with colleagues, reaffirm family ties, or are visiting as an overnight guest, there are many ways to experience Asilomar's unique "Spirit of Place:"

- Enjoy an early morning run along the scenic Coastal Trail which offers expansive views of the shoreline's bluffs and the rolling waves of the Pacific Ocean. You're sure to spot an abundance of wildlife, from sea otters to gray whales travelling through the Monterey Bay during their winter migration.
- Discover Asilomar's unique environment by taking a tour - either self-guided or led by a State Park staff person. These learning adventures will give



you an opportunity to delve into the abundant cultural history and rich natural resources at Asilomar State Park. The "Asilomar Ramble," our most popular tour, is led by State Park staff, giving visitors a chance to discover the historic buildings designed by famed architect, Julia Morgan, and learn the history of the first conference center owned by a women's organization – the YWCA – in the United States.



- Stroll across the soft white sand at Asilomar State Beach to dip your toes into the chilly blue Pacific Ocean. During low tides, you can explore the numerous tide pools of Asilomar's rocky shores where abundant sea life can be viewed. Asilomar State Beach is located in the National Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary – part of a statewide network of marine protected areas.

Enjoy

In 2014 California State Parks is commemorating its Sesquicentennial – 150 years of State Parks! In acknowledgement, Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds will be hosting special events and activities throughout the year. Be sure to read California State Parks' Director Major General Anthony Jackson's message about this special anniversary year on the first pages.

Share

You can play a major role in determining just how successful we are in meeting our goal to

provide a quality visitor experience by emailing your comments directly to Asilomar State Park at Asilomar.Beach@parks.ca.gov or mail to: Asilomar State Beach Office, 804 Crocker Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

You can also access Aramarks online electronic survey at www.MyGuestExperience.com, which allows you to send in your review from your computer, tablet or mobile phone. A guest survey card is also available at the Asilomar gift store, Phoebe Apperson Hearst front desk, or Crocker Dining Hall.

We're pleased to have you here and hope you enjoy your stay!

Eric Abma
Asilomar State Beach and
Conference Grounds
Superintendent



ARAMARK



**Mairead Hennessy, District Manager,
Asilomar Conference Grounds Aramark**

Aramark would like to welcome you to the Monterey Peninsula and Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds.

In September 2009, Aramark was awarded the California State Parks concession contract to operate the Asilomar Conference Grounds, and is proud to include this "Refuge by the Sea" among the treasured properties it manages within the nation's National Parks and Forests, State Parks, cultural attractions and conference centers in the United States.

In Central California, Aramark also has the privilege of operating at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Hearst Castle – another State Park unit. In partnership with its clients, Aramark seeks to enhance the guest experience by offering

industry-leading hospitality, environmental stewardship, and recreational and interpretive programs. Here at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds, Aramark staff directly supports California State Parks in its mission to preserve and protect, while we focus on our core mission of delivering experiences that enrich and nourish the lives of our visitors.

Healthy Environment

At Aramark, we have a deep respect for, and commitment to, protecting and improving the environment. We work to reduce our environmental footprint while meeting our goals for operational excellence. Throughout our company, we develop and implement long-term

environmental stewardship programs and policies within the areas of food purchasing; supply chain; building operations; energy and water conservation; transportation and waste management. We embrace sustainability as a process, and have implemented environmental management systems that serve as the basis for long-term continuous improvement. At Asilomar we bring our expertise and offer practical solutions to California State Parks in helping to reduce the environmental impact of the conference grounds operations.

While visiting Asilomar Conference Grounds, look for the Green Thread® logo around the property to see how we are making a difference in the many things we do – from providing tools to reduce water and energy consumption, increasing waste diverted from landfills through composting and recycling, and preparing healthy, fresh and local food in the dining hall, thereby reducing the environmental impact beyond Asilomar's boundaries.

You can also help us meet our goals by:



- Using the trash and recycling bins provided on the property
- Turning off the faucet while washing your hands
- Turning out the lights and turning off the heat when leaving your guest or meeting room
- Walking or biking around the property rather than driving your car
- Allowing the wildlife to enjoy their natural settings without interruption.

Let us know if you see additional areas where we can make environmental improvements!

Healthy Foods

In the spirit of encouraging healthy people and a healthy planet – Aramark chefs work hard to ensure that we focus on providing organic, seasonal and local produce and proteins (meat, fish and dairy). Guests can expect the freshest ingredients prepared to retain the food's maximum flavor and optimum health benefits.

Our meals offer goodness and high quality - a priority for a good diet. Our cooking style includes fish and meats as a main staple, incorporating vegetables, fruits, whole grains, seeds, nuts and legumes as often as possible. Our focus is on balance and moderation to provide healthy meals. This not only applies to the quantity of food served, but also to the flavorings incorporated during preparation. We emphasize a cooking style that promotes nourishing foods and doesn't rely on heavy spices, excess fats or an over-abundance of flavorings.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program helps consumers and businesses make seafood choices for healthy oceans. As a Seafood Watch Partner, Asilomar's menu



recommendations indicate which seafood items are "Best Choices" or "Good Alternatives"; menus do not include items to "Avoid."

Earth's oceans have supplied humans with food, and have created a livelihood for millions of people for thousands of years. Humans have also depended on the oceans for climate regulation, recreation and emotional and spiritual renewal. But the once infinite bounty that our oceans once appeared to provide has, in fact, suffered from overfishing, illegal fishing, and marine habitat damage; no part of our oceans remains unaffected by human activities. At Aramark we are working with "Seafood Watch" to do our part to contribute to better ocean management practices.

Healthy Mind and Body

As a unit of California State Parks, Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds is open to the public 365 days a year. Part of the California State Parks Mission is to "provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California ...". Asilomar is the perfect place to relax, recharge and renew! Some of the healthy activities you can enjoy at Asilomar include:

- Walk the scenic boardwalk and natural habitat trails
- Take a cell phone tour of the historic conference grounds
- Ride a bike along beautiful coastline routes
- Play pool or board games in the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Social Hall
- Sit on the deck with a book and coffee or lunch from Phoebe's Café and enjoy the fresh air and the view
- Indulge in S' mores at the nightly Bonfire
- Relax with a glass of wine or a beer in front of a roaring fire at the Social Hall
- Plan your next escape to Asilomar

—Contributed by the Aramark team at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds



YWCA BUILDS ASILOMAR

Phoebe Apperson Hearst Social Hall Entry, c. 1915

Asilomar, a National Historic Landmark

Asilomar has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior. Numbering less than 2500 nationwide, National Historic Landmarks are “nationally significant historic places because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States.” Asilomar achieved its status in 1987 because it is one “of the nation’s first expressions of architecture and planning of the American Arts and Crafts movement, and stands as a monumental achievement in the context of the career of Julia Morgan.”

Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA)

Founded on the East Coast in the second half of the 19th century, the Young Women’s Christian Association grew alongside the women’s movement. Inspired by late nineteenth-century Evangelical Protestantism, some of the women of the YWCA fought for, among other things, women’s suffrage, educational rights, better

working conditions, and safer and cleaner cities. The YWCA’s ultimate aim was “to help girls to be physically, mentally, and spiritually fit.” By the early years of the twentieth century, YWCA branches were located in every major American city and on nearly every college campus in California.

By the second decade of the twentieth century, much of the YWCA’s energy went toward providing work for immigrant girls and to traveler’s aid. Virtually every branch included an employment bureau, and the YWCA operated more than 100 boarding houses. One of the roles of the YWCA was to promote “wholesome recreation and social enjoyment” for young women, so the Pacific Coast Branch

of the organization held annual camp meetings.

The Hotel Capitola in Capitola, California served as the site of these conferences until 1911 when Phoebe Hearst announced that she would hold the next year’s conference at her extensive estate in Pleasanton. For the 1912 “Hacienda Conference,” Mrs. Hearst, long considered a “fairy godmother” to the Pacific Coast Branch, equipped a hilltop campground with tents and iron beds for more than 350 young women, stocked a huge dining tent, and even built roads into the hillside to smooth the way for the fleet of autos that shuttled girls from the train depot to the hillside “campground.”

Mrs. Hearst invited some of the Bay Area’s most influential women to hear firsthand about the YWCA’s work and the plan to build a permanent conference center. Hearst paid the cost of the food and camping equipment while the girls’ conference fees were added to the fund set aside to purchase the grounds.

By December the YWCA had negotiated a deal with Monterey Peninsula real estate developer,



YWCA Summer Camp Uniform, c. 1918

the Pacific Improvement Company. In spite of the objection from some of the eastern "old guard" who suggested that the climate might be too harsh for young women, the YWCA's West Coast leadership selected a 30-acre campground between the famed Seventeen-Mile Drive and the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Improvement Company was willing to lease 30 acres of land "facing the ocean" to the YWCA, with the conditions that \$35,000 of improvements would be made on the property within 10 years and that the YWCA would also pay taxes of one dollar per acre per annum. If these lease conditions were met, the land would be deeded to the YWCA.

They wasted little time in hiring Bay Area architect Julia Morgan, who had close connections to the Hearst family and was then completing plans for the YWCA building in Oakland. Surveyors went to work in February 1913, and by June, a site had been cleared and work began on the Administration Building, later named the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Social Hall. Work would

continue on that building into the next year. When the girls arrived in early August, they were also greeted by a huge, round dining tent, several portable buildings, and ten tent houses. The tent houses had solid redwood frames with permanent roofs and floors and canvas sides that could be opened to let in the ocean air. Each tent house had 14 rooms equipped with a pair of iron beds, and each had a veranda to ensure "a neighborly atmosphere".

The First National Summer Conference Camp, 1913

Asilomar became part of a national system of conference facilities operated by the YWCA and the first that it owned outright. Initially, the grounds were to be known as "Guardamar," but that was a name no one seemed to like. Phoebe Hearst suggested that the girls name the grounds and proposed a contest to excite interest. Contest rules insisted that the name had to be something "Californian, preferably Spanish, and must suggest either the peculiar natural charm of the place, or the purpose

for which it is to be used, or, better still, both." Helen Salisbury, a Stanford University student, won a five-dollar gold coin for her winning entry. Salisbury combined the Spanish word *asil*, which means asylum or refuge, with *mar*, meaning sea, to form "*Asilomar*" – a refuge by the sea.

Opening conference sessions Sunday morning, August 3, 1913, were devoted to Bible and mission study. Classes and lectures – on topics ranging from the international work of the YWCA to the power of the American common schools – were scheduled over the next 10 days. Girls were encouraged to bring a nice dress for visiting Monterey and Carmel, and a pair of tramping shoes for hiking the coast. Every afternoon was free for enjoying the outdoors and every night the girls enjoyed bonfires on the beach. The highlight of the week was the dedication ceremony featuring an extraordinary pageant, "The Ministering of the Gift," with nearly 400 costumed girls and the Monterey Presidio Band.



YWCA Pacific Field Committee, 1913. Phoebe Hearst, fifth from right wearing Chinese garment.



Asilomar Tent Houses, 1923. Dickinson Collection.

Asilomar

YWCA's leadership expected Asilomar to pay its own way, but they depended upon donations to fulfill their ambitious building plans. Armed with large donations from wealthy philanthropists, including Mrs. Hearst, Ellen Browning Scripps, Olivia E.P. Stokes, and several others, as well as smaller donations from thousands of ordinary girls, the YWCA added several new buildings, including the Julia Morgan-designed Grace Dodge Chapel-Auditorium, Visitors Lodge, Health Cottage, Class Hall, Guest Inn, Crocker Dining Hall, Stuck-Up Inn, a warehouse, and maintenance shop all before 1920.

To pay for its annual operations, the YWCA not only charged the girls for room and board (about \$1.50 per day, equal to \$35.00 in 2013) it also leased the grounds to groups sympathetic to its cause.

The Young Men's Christian Association and the Epworth League held annual conferences beginning in 1914. California Newspaper owners used Asilomar for their annual meeting, as did the California Grange and the Chinese Student Association. In the winter of 1920-21 the YWCA began to

open Asilomar year-round, in part to keep up with the demand, but also to keep the money flowing into its coffers.

Stuck-ups and Pirates

To staff the grounds during conferences, the YWCA offered opportunities for free room and board to college-age girls. Only a few positions were available each summer, so the demand for them often exceeded the supply. The work was hard and time-consuming but the girls had the opportunity to live in the Stuck-up Inn which, unlike the tent houses, included a comfortable living room with a fireplace. Perhaps because of the relative luxury they lived in, those chosen few became known as the "Stuck-ups," a title they ultimately embraced.

In 1917, the YWCA hired a group of boys and young men to assist at camp. They did some of the heavy lifting required at Asilomar by serving as porters, bus boys, and dishwashers. Known as the "Pirates," they became central to an annual conference tradition of dressing in pirate costumes and 'raiding' Crocker Dining Hall during lunch time. That many of them took liberties with the desert

tray might have led to their being dubbed "Pie Rats." However they got their names, the Stuck-ups and Pirates have become some of the most memorable characters in the history of Asilomar. (Stuck-up and Pirate histories and photos hang in the hallways of Stuck-up Inn and Pirates' Den.)

A Resort by the Sea

By the Depression years of the early 1930s, the YWCA found its donors less willing to continue funding Asilomar's deficits. Short of cash, the National Board of the YWCA decided to close and sell Asilomar. Nevertheless, demand for Asilomar's facilities was still strong. Winifred Heard of Berkeley, who had been involved with Asilomar since 1928, stepped in to keep Asilomar operating. Using her connections in the YWCA and in the Bay Area's spiritual community, she organized several conferences that not only helped pay for



Baseball in the Dunes at Asilomar, 1915. Grogan Collection.



Stuck Ups, CA State Parks, 1927

maintenance and upkeep but also helped shape Asilomar's future course.

Despite these efforts, the YWCA continued to pursue a buyer for Asilomar. In 1936, the YWCA leased Asilomar to the Visel brothers, operators of a ranch in Carpinteria, California. The YWCA apparently also gave them an option to buy the grounds for \$100,000. Paulson Visel, with his wife Beatrice, his brother David and mother Elizabeth, moved onto the grounds and began an energetic program to restore Asilomar's glory as a conference facility while reinventing it as seaside resort and auto camp. The effort to turn Asilomar into a resort-by-the-sea ended in 1941 when the Visels walked away from the opportunity to buy the grounds. The National Board of the YWCA then leased the grounds to the National Youth Administration, a unit of the New Deal-era Works Progress Administration that offered education and employment training to underprivileged youth. The NYA used Asilomar's grounds to house and train unemployed young people for the expected wartime industries

while providing an opportunity for structured recreation.

With the start of World War II, the NYA's mission came to an end, but the influx of people into California made sure that Asilomar did not stay empty for long. Families of military personnel associated with Fort Ord took up residence at Asilomar during the first half of 1942 and stayed until 1946.

The Friends of Asilomar

Following World War II, YWCA members were torn between their emotional attachment to the grounds and its inability to produce enough revenue to pay for its upkeep. As a result, the YWCA continued to entertain offers for purchase of the grounds but, at the same time, continued to support the efforts of volunteers to keep operating Asilomar. Led by Winifred Heard, Bay Area and local volunteers (Friends of Asilomar), Asilomar reopened as a conference facility. They also began to plan for its long-term survival. Perhaps the most consequential decision they made was the hiring of manager Roma Philbrook, in 1949. An experienced hospital administrator, Philbrook would remain at

Asilomar until the end of 1977, overseeing its transformation from primarily a weekend and summer meeting facility to a year-round, full-service conference grounds.

In 1952, the YWCA negotiated a deal with an Oakland funeral home director who planned to convert Asilomar to an end-of-life home for 400 persons over age 65. At about the same time, Asilomar's neighbor, the Del Monte Company, offered to buy the several hundred thousand cubic feet of sand west of the Chapel and the Circle. The Friends of Asilomar objected to both deals but knew that they had to act in order to save Asilomar. A group of concerned citizens in neighboring Pacific Grove formed a "Save Asilomar" committee and actively lobbied the State to buy Asilomar.

In the early 1950s, as part of its plan to protect California's coast, the California Department of Natural Resources Division of Beaches & Parks purchased nearby Moss Beach and parts of the rocky shoreline south of the Point Pinos lighthouse reservation. In 1952, California State Parks announced that it was also interested in buying the conference grounds as well as



Left to right: Pattee, Knowland, and Farr, 1956

the neighboring sand dunes, which it would set aside forever as a wild and undeveloped area. The bill including funds for the purchase of Asilomar and 18 other properties on a State Parks Commission wish list passed with little difficulty. Nevertheless, Governor Goodwin Knight pocket vetoed the bill, arguing that the nearly \$16 million package violated the long-standing principal that State funds be matched with private donations or local allocations.

Winifred Heard teamed with her friend Joseph Knowland, Chairman of the State Parks Commission, Democratic State Senator Fred Farr, and Republican State Assemblyman Alan Pattee, to broker a deal in which the YWCA would donate half the \$700,000 appraised value to the state. In the final part of the deal, the City of Pacific Grove agreed to manage the grounds for 25 years to pay all operational costs and to invest all surplus funds into maintenance and new buildings.

On July 1, 1956, the conference grounds of Asilomar became a part of Asilomar State Beach Park under the management of the non-profit Pacific Grove-Asilomar Operating Corporation.

Concessionaires

Under the concession agreement with Pacific Grove and with Roma Philbrook's continued management, Asilomar began several decades of profitable operations. Plans were put into place in 1958, calling for full utilization of the grounds, "First Class" housing, more parking, and a modern infrastructure. Expansion and modernization of Asilomar began in 1959 with the opening of the Surf and Sand Complex and the Corporation Yard. A remodeled and expanded Crocker Dining facility followed in 1960. In 1969, State Parks terminated the operating agreement with Pacific Grove and assumed control over the Pacific Grove-Asilomar Operating Corporation. Roma Philbrook remained, however, and Asilomar's expansion continued across Asilomar Avenue into East Woods with the addition of the State Parks training facility and accompanying housing.

Though Roma Philbrook departed in 1977, expansion continued until the completion of Forest Lodge, Fireside, and the North Woods complexes in 1981. Throughout Asilomar's years of expansion, concern grew over

the conference grounds' impact on the environment. In the 1980s, State Parks began a systematic program of dunes restoration that continues to this day. Forest restoration, which had begun as early as 1959, also continues as the effects of pitch canker, fragmentation, and other impacts on the Monterey pine forests are monitored and analyzed.

In 1993 the State cancelled the concession agreement with the Pacific Grove-Asilomar Operating Corporation, and awarded it to the Delaware North Corporation in 1996. In September 2009, California State Parks contracted with Aramark for 20 years to operate the conference and lodging business.

In 2012, State Parks initiated a multi-year project to bring Asilomar into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Funded with concessionaire contributions, these improvements include the reconstruction of pathways, improved building access, and the remodeling of several guests rooms to full accessibility.

Asilomar State Beach & Conference Grounds

The Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds now contains nearly 60 buildings located on 107 acres with a world-renowned beach, gently rolling sand dunes, and a Monterey pine-coast live oak forest. It has an annual visitation of more than 400,000 people including conference attendees, vacationers, visitors to the beach, and those who walk the dunes boardwalk and coastal trail for their spectacular views.



©CA State Parks. Peter Nichols

Julia Morgan

When Julia Morgan designed the Asilomar Conference Grounds, women in California had only recently secured the right to vote, but the women of the Young Women's Christian Association

knew that they were on the verge of something great. Morgan's college friend, Oakland Chapter President, Grace Fischer, said that the YWCA "is not an experiment." The organization's investment in Asilomar was one way to prove it.

Julia Morgan was the right person to carry the YWCA's vision forward. She had achieved a measure of fame in the San Francisco Bay Area as one of the first women to earn an engineering degree from the



©CA State Parks

Phoebe Apperson Hearst Social Hall Interior, c. 1915. Julia Morgan, Architect



©CA State Parks, Peter Nichols

Merrill Hall Interior. Julia Morgan, Architect

University of California, and as the first women to gain admittance to and graduate from the École des Beaux-Paris. Morgan was the first woman architect licensed by the State of California. It was her skill as an architect, however, that secured her commission to design the YWCA's conference grounds on the Monterey Peninsula.

Throughout her career, Morgan demonstrated her ability to

work in an extraordinary array of architectural styles. Trained in the classicism of the Beaux-Arts, her designs for Asilomar reflect an innovative vernacular approach to Arts and Craft architecture known as the First Bay Tradition. She set a standard at Asilomar with her design for the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Social Hall, the first permanent building she built on the grounds. It featured natural materials including local granite and unpainted redwood. Hidden behind the dunes and set among the trees, the great social hall became the center of life at Asilomar.

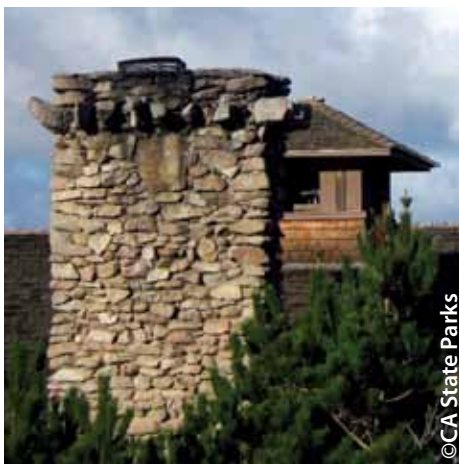
The completion in 1928 of the majestic Merrill Hall brought the Morgan era at Asilomar to a close. Nevertheless, with their high, open ceilings, stone fireplaces, and placement where the sandy dunes meet the Monterey pine forest, Morgan's buildings continue to inspire

appreciation for architecture and for the natural environment. Julia Morgan was the first woman awarded the AIA Gold Medal for her body of work. The AIA Board voted December 12, 2013 to give her this award.

John Carl Warnecke

In 1957, Asilomar hired San Francisco architect John Carl Warnecke to develop a "Master Plan" for the modernization and expansion of Asilomar. Warnecke, who was born in Oakland in 1919, would develop a reputation as a larger-than-life figure. Before he retired, his internationally-recognized firm would design the Soviet Embassy in Washington, DC, the U.S. Naval Academy Library, international airports, university buildings, and the State Capitol in Hawaii. He became acquainted with John and Jacqueline Kennedy and, after the president's assassination, designed the "Eternal Flame" gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery. Yet, when he was hired at Asilomar, he was best known for designing the Mira Vista School in Richmond, California. However, his recently completed Mark Thomas Inn in Monterey caught the eye of Asilomar manager Roma Philbrook for its innovative use of exposed wood and native landscaping.

Warnecke's plan for Asilomar called for expanding and improving Asilomar's capacity, including the



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©CA State Parks

addition of “First Class” housing. New lodging, meeting, and dining facilities must be “accomplished without destroying the easy relationship of buildings to the land.” Asilomar,” Warnecke said, “should not become “crowded.”

Starting with the Surf and Sand Complex, followed by Sea Galaxy, View Crescent, and the Long Views Group, Warnecke designed buildings that reflect his “contextual” architecture, respecting both existing historic structures and their natural setting. Featuring exposed wood beams and wood shake exterior cladding, Warnecke’s modern designs complement Julia Morgan’s Arts and Crafts buildings. He used glass to link the inside of his buildings with the natural world outside. His use of color, including burnt orange and gold to contrast with the coastal fog, and sienna, cerulean blue, and olive greens to harmonize with the environment, reflected his appreciation for Asilomar’s extraordinary setting.

North Woods, East Woods and Forest Lodge

In 1970, the Julia Morgan-designed Guest Inn was razed to make room for the North Woods Complex of buildings. Designed by the San Francisco architectural firm of Smith, Barker & Hanssen, the buildings were meant to satisfy



©CA State Parks, Peter Nichols

Surf and Sand Meeting Room. JC Warnecke, Architect

the growing demand for modern accommodations first awakened by Warnecke’s Surf and Sand Complex. In 1974, the conference grounds expanded across Asilomar Avenue with the addition of the East Woods lodging complex. At the same time, California State Parks opened a training center next to East Woods. Later renamed in honor of one of the Department’s most distinguished

leaders, the William Penn Mott, Jr. State Park Training Center fulfilled State Parks need to provide for continuing learning for its people. In 1981, Asilomar completed its expansion with the opening of the Fireside and Forest Lodge complexes. Like other buildings on the grounds, they combine unfinished wood with local stone to blend harmoniously with the setting of Asilomar.



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Left to right: Longviews, North Woods, Fireside/Farr Forum

SPIRIT OF PLACE

Asilomar

The place inside of you
that holds the source of your love,
the fragile essence of who you are,
speaks to you in a whispered voice,
a voice that gets drowned out
by the noise of life and buried
by the incessant demands of the world.

We need a refuge by the sea
to return to the home in ourselves.
A place where the trees do not care
if you are the first or the last,
where the ground does not care
If your heart is lonely or your spirit is full,
where the ocean does not need
your effort or your love
to bring its waves to the shore.

You only need bring your heart
for this place to heal you.
Then, you will hear the trees,
you will hear the ground,
and you will hear the sea
whisper your soul back to life
and you will know why it is called,
Asilomar, the refuge by the sea.

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Nick LeForce, the Transformational Poet, uses poetry to word the world in a way that brings you to life and life to you. He conducts workshops designed to guide you in walking the landscape of the soul, engaging in genuine dialogue with life, creating worthy encounters with others, and bringing your beauty and power to life. For more information, contact Nick at info@transformationalpoet.com or visit: www.transformationalpoet.com

ELIZABETH MURRAY COVER ARTIST



Art, Enrichment and Experiencing Spirit of Place

In the late 70s, before I ever went to France and fell in love with Monet's Gardens, I would save up my money and vacation time to take a full week off to paint at Asilomar's internationally known Jade Fon watercolor workshops.

I spent glorious hours simply looking at the light and ever-changing sea for a hint on how I might express it with my paint. I sat hidden in the creamy white dunes among the burnt orange and crimson ice plant joyfully painting their tapestry. I love the windy paths, the wind-sculpted cypress trees, and the oaks I painted pink, introduced me to Fauvist painters with their wild colors. Critiques were held in the Grace Dodge Chapel

where I would sit by myself in the back and pray I got a decent review!

I moved to Giverny, France, in 1985 to help restore Monet's gardens, photographing and painting at dawn and dusk. I returned to Asilomar a few years later to attend a writer's workshop, and found the Social Hall with roaring fireplace and sea views was the perfect place to write after a long walk along the sea.

At Asilomar, I have attended and spoken at conferences on organic farming, children's book writing, master gardeners, and creativity retreats. I have made life-long friendships, housed my family in the historic rooms, and had picnics, beach fires, birthdays and New Year's celebrations. I have shown children the tide pools' living

rocks, covered with sea anemones, urchins, blue mussels and purple or orange sea stars. I have joyfully introduced visitors to the beauty in the tide pools, the diversity of the light, the architecture and native plants. I still walk in all weather on the boardwalks along the sea and through the dunes, alone, with my dog or a friend. My life has been deeply enriched for over 40 years by coming to Asilomar. It is part of the landscape that has shaped me into who I am today.

Cover Artwork is by Elizabeth Murray, an artist, writer, gardener and motivational speaker who lives and works on the Monterey Peninsula. Widely known for her work at Monet's gardens in Giverny, France, Elizabeth has written several books, the newest of which is "Living Life in Full Bloom".



Asilomar Impressions, © E. Murray



HABITATS

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Dunes

Asilomar's 35 acres of sand dunes represent the last remaining area of contiguous, undeveloped dunes in Pacific Grove. Once covering some 480 acres along the western edge of the Monterey Peninsula, the sand dunes have changed dramatically since Europeans began to settle here in the 1700s. Logging, cattle grazing, sand mining and development have damaged and removed much of the original dune ecosystem.

The degraded dunes permitted loose sand to blow away in the wind and, as years passed, the towering dunes shrank drastically. The native plants that had historically provided

stability to the dune sands and habitat for native animals had been reduced to small remnant patches through continued unregulated use of the dunes.

Aggressive efforts to control drifting sand that was engulfing the buildings included using heavy equipment to remove drift sand away from the buildings. Non-native ice plant was encouraged to grow due to its ability to stabilize drifting sand. By the early 1980s the dunes were a relatively flat area existing almost exclusively of ice plant.

Ice plant provides neither food nor shelter to native wildlife and aggressively out-competes native plants by usurping the nutrients, water and space needed for growth. The natural undulating shape of the dunes was degraded, allowing wind and salt spray to move inland unabated. This caused the wind-twisted pines closest to the sea to die and put additional stress on the inland plants usually protected by the dunes.

Something Had to be Done

State Parks staff and the concessionaire agreed that strong action had to be taken if the dunes were to be saved. They

embarked on an ambitious project in 1987 to restore the dunes to its "pre-European-influence" condition by creating a self-sustaining ecosystem.

Luckily, amidst the desolation, a few isolated pockets of relatively pristine habitat remained. These became the models upon which guidelines were developed for the restoration work as well as seed banks for the propagation of native plants.

The restoration project goal was to preserve the dune environment in its natural condition while accommodating public use. This seemingly simple goal required many years of work and ingenuity to accomplish. The first challenge was to collect enough native seeds from the isolated pockets of native habitat remaining. Second, was to build a plant nursery to begin the delicate process of propagating and growing the plants. Next, all non-native plants had to be eliminated from the dunes using environmentally safe methods. Heavy equipment was used to sculpt the dunes in the same way the prevailing winds would have done. Once the dunes were reshaped, they were replanted



©CA State Parks

Degraded sand dunes with invasive, non-native ice plant.



by hand and hydroseeded. A split-rail fence was put around the restored dunes to protect it from unwanted trampling.

Each step of the way, local citizens volunteered their efforts to help the State Parks staff meet these challenges. In time, the dunes began to resemble its earlier pristine state as native plants took hold and thrived. The plant nursery provided an economical source of dunes plants. To date, more than 400,000 plants representing 25 different native plant species have been grown and planted in the dunes and along the shoreline bluffs. The dunes currently are dominated by native plants and are home to special status plants and animals like Menzies' wallflower, black legless lizard and red-shouldered hawk.

Monterey Pines

Since Europeans first viewed the pines along the fog shrouded Monterey peninsula over 400 years ago, the beauty of Monterey pine forests has been valued by explorers, scientists, nature lovers and artists alike. The Monterey pine forest is an integral part of the "sense of place" at Asilomar and has been celebrated in song and verse by visitors over the years.

Monterey pines are the most widely planted pine in the world. It is planted for its stately grace in gardens and public landscapes as well as for its economic value. Fast growth and quality wood from selective breeding make it ideal for the global timber industry. Monterey pines are extensively grown in New Zealand, Australia, Chile, South Africa and the Mediterranean region. The native Monterey pine forests in California are of great importance to these forest industries as they function as banks of genetic diversity for



Photos T to B: Red-shouldered Hawk; Menzies' Wallflower; Black Legless Lizard

the development of new strains of Monterey pines.

Thousands of years ago, native Monterey pine forests grew in fragmented pockets throughout California. Due to shifts in the climate and more recently to urban and agricultural development, these majestic native pines are now one of the rarest forest



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Asilomar's Monterey pine forest

ecosystems in the world. They are limited to a narrow stretch of California's coast in San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo counties as well as two islands off the west coast of Baja, Mexico. The largest and most diverse remaining Monterey pine forests are here on the Monterey Peninsula.

The Forest at Asilomar

Asilomar's forest currently covers approximately 45 acres with 16

acres covered with hardscape such as roads, trails and buildings. It is dominated by Monterey pines with a sub-canopy of coast live oaks and planted non-native Monterey cypress intermixed. Historically, the pine canopy in the Asilomar area was dominated by trees that became established between 1850 and 1910 (McBride and Stone, 1976). A major fire in 1901 burned many trees; but, in some parts of the Asilomar forest,

many older pines—50, 65, and 75 year old trees survived (Smith 1994). Monterey pines are well adapted to regenerating after fires as most cones remain closed until exposed to high temperatures. It is estimated that tens of thousands of young pine seedlings per acre can be established after a fire.

As early as 1997, pitch canker at Asilomar was in 78 percent of its pines; by January 2001, less than two percent of pines were free of pitch canker symptoms. The mortality was staggering. Over 60 percent of Asilomar's Monterey pines greater than six inches in diameter have died since 1991.

Pitch Canker

Pitch canker is a disease caused by a fungus (*Fusarium circinatum*). It was first recognized in California in 1986 and affects many of California's native pines including Monterey pines. In 1993, pitch canker was first identified within native Monterey pine stands at Asilomar and in the Del Monte Forest of Pebble Beach. By 1994, it had spread to all the native stands of Monterey pines in California.

Native bark, cone and twig beetles carry the fungus pathogen to branch tips and cone whorls. Needles on the tips of infected branches fade to yellow, then to rust, and fall from the tree. Advanced symptoms of pitch canker disease include resin extruding on the surface of the shoots, branches, exposed roots and trunks. Trees with advanced symptoms of the disease have significant crown dieback due to the large number of infected branch tips.

Each area of the tree showing symptoms is a separate infection. Removing diseased parts of a

tree does not stop the infection. Currently, there has been no demonstrated way to control the effects of pitch canker through the use of insecticides and fungicides or other methods.

Progress and Ongoing Challenges

Over the years since pitch canker was recognized on the central coast, the understanding of how to manage pitch canker-infected Monterey pine forests has changed significantly. Early methods, such as inoculating seedlings with the disease to screen them for resistance, showed promise in the greenhouse, but long-term results in the forest were disappointing. Work is continuing to identify the genes responsible for resistance and to develop reliable screening methods.



State Parks volunteer planting seeds

Today, the Asilomar State Park resource staff grows native Monterey pines from seeds taken from within the park. There is not a direct link between the resistance or susceptibility to pitch canker of a parent tree and the seedlings it produces. Seeds are collected from trees with and without pitch canker symptoms in a way that ensures a high degree of genetic diversity. The seedlings are grown in 3-gallon pots to ensure robust seedlings to transplant. Another method used to encourage natural recruitment of pines is the placement of woodchips, created from dead Monterey pine trees in the park, that are also supplemented with chipped pine cones. This seed-dense media is spread in areas that have conditions conducive to pine growth.



Monterey Pine seedlings



Pine tree with pitch canker

The chipped material suppresses the growth of non-native annuals and increases survival for natural pine seedlings (trees not grown in the nursery and hand-planted).

While pitch canker has been a primary cause for the rapid decline of Monterey pines at Asilomar, the degradation of the forest ecosystem has been affected by other factors as well.

Forest Fragmentation

The pine and oak forest was thinned for the construction of buildings in 1913 and continue until 1981. Thirty-five percent of Asilomar's forest is fragmented with buildings, parking lots, roadways and pathways. This fragmentation prevents the pines from developing a dense canopy.

Competition from Invasive Plants

The pine canopy that once created ideal conditions for native understory plants to grow is now lost. Longer periods of sunlight weaken the shade-tolerant plants and dry out the soil. Conditions on the forest floor now favor non-natives. Weedy annual grasses, herbs, vines, shrubs and trees are included in the more than 60 species of non-native plants that occur at Asilomar.

Coast Live Oaks

A less apparent threat to the forest comes from the Monterey pine's closest neighbor—the coast live oak. In a mature pine forest, the two live harmoniously with oaks surviving beneath the pine's canopy. However, the longer-lived oaks can eventually dominate the forest as the pines are unable to regenerate under the shade of the oaks.

Non-native Wildlife

The loss of native vegetation has reduced or eliminated native wildlife populations. The void is being filled with non-native species such as house sparrows, crows, starlings, red fox, and red fox squirrels.

The Forest Plan Strategy

In 2007, State Parks updated its Asilomar Forest Management Plan. It establishes a framework of protection, restoration, and maintenance for the Monterey pine forest ecosystem.

We will never replicate the pre-European forest conditions at Asilomar with today's landscape of buildings, parking lots, and roadways; but, we can work

towards a mosaic of representative trees and try to mimic small areas of remnant vegetation on less developed sites in the park.

A number of healthy trees, resistant to pitch canker, have been planted and are now thriving. To assist the reforestation success, many trees are partially screened. The screen gives protection from heavy winds, offers passive shade (preventing the soil from drying out so quickly), and protects the young tree from the trampling and browsing of local Black Tail deer, as well as the rubbing of the bucks during the rut season.

Growing native Monterey pines in the plant nursery will continue for many years. To achieve reforestation at Asilomar, we estimate that 560 pine trees per year over a five-year period need to survive outplanting.

The removal of non-native plants and oaks that inhibit the growth of pines is performed on a selective basis. Cypress trees are not native to Asilomar; they were planted aggressively when there were concerns that all the Monterey pines would die. Many cypresses have grown quite large

since the early 90s and now prevent the regeneration of the Monterey pines by overshadowing. An active program is underway to control the number of cypress.

In the ecological context of the forest, dune soil and topography play a significant role in shaping the forest at Asilomar. In other words, preserving the sand dunes protects the pine forest.

The soil in young dunes nearest the coast is little more than loose sand. It is composed of loose deposits of quartz and feldspar sands with high permeability, low water-holding capacity and low organic matter. As pines grow on the eastern edge of the dunes, a change in plant species growing under the trees is more weighted to a pine forest rather than a dune. Further inland, the soils are associated with the oldest dune parent material with clay and iron in the subsoil and higher organic matter. The water-holding capacity in the soil is significantly higher. The end result is larger pines and oaks and the establishment of forest vegetation.

The topography of the conference grounds ranges in elevation from sea level to

90 feet above sea level. The entire property lies over partially stabilized dunes of differing ages, creating wide and gentle slopes. The topography of these surfaces plays a significant role in soil and vegetation development.

Where the topography consists of a ridge-swale pattern, moisture tends to accumulate in the lower swale depression areas, creating favorable conditions for plants. Ridges offer swale areas protection from wind and salt spray. As pines develop and spread laterally along the eastern edge of the dunes, it alters wind patterns.





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Some dead pines are intentionally left standing for acorn woodpeckers. The trees are used for nesting sites, graneries to store acorns, and to hunt for insects.

The wind-topped pines push wind currents up and away from the surface, providing a wind barrier for the forest vegetation.

Further inland in the Asilomar forest, the topography of ridges is wide, gentle slopes. Pines and cypresses exist on these ridges as well as in the lower swale areas, reaching their greatest heights due to the fact that they are largely sheltered from wind.

A diversity of habitat vegetation in the forest is important for managing the health of wildlife populations. The many wildlife species that occur at Asilomar have various needs for nesting, food and cover. These requirements vary seasonally, depending on the life cycle of the plants and animals. Animals that nest or den in one habitat type are likely to



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forage or get water in one or more other types. The ability to move between habitat types for these purposes is critical. The health of trees and vegetation in different zones is key to their livelihood on the Asilomar grounds.

A Snapshot of Asilomar's Forest Today

It is evident when taking a quick examination of the Asilomar forest that it is in poor condition as a result of the advanced age of most of the trees, forest fragmentation from development, and disease. But a closer look will reveal sites in the forest where young healthy trees have been planted or recruited naturally and are thriving. In the years to come, this reforestation will create a juvenile forest stage at Asilomar which will

provide local wildlife with pockets of dense, small tree habitat that has not been available for some time. The denser tree growth and increased shade will also slow - and probably help reduce - the growth of invasive non-native plants.

It is important that we act wisely now because in 50 years another generation will be living with the results of the forest we save today. With increasing stressors on our natural environment, like climate change, a robust effort is needed to restore Asilomar's forest. A focus on creating a multi-aged, genetically diverse forest may make this habitat more resilient to future challenges. Every small effort on our part will ensure that Asilomar's Monterey pine forest ecosystem continues to exist and thrive for future generations.

The State Beach and Blue Pacific

The craggy coves and a long stretch of sand on Asilomar State Beach offer a myriad of places to explore. Here, you'll find treasures everywhere. As you explore, keep in mind that each form of marine life, from sea birds to the smallest invertebrates, plants, and rocks, is protected in this marine reserve. Asilomar State Beach is one of several Marine Protected Areas in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary. California's Marine Protected Areas



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form a network which includes many different marine habitats – including Asilomar’s rocky coast tide pools.

Asilomar’s White Sand

Santa Lucia granodiorite rock forms the rocky coast along Asilomar State Beach. This dense, hard rock is comprised of large rectangular crystals of orthoclase feldspar, gray translucent quartz, creamy plagioclase feldspar, and black biotite mica. It formed over 100 million years ago from a molten mass deep in the earth under the ocean. It was transported here through massive uplifts and plate tectonics. This movement most likely caused the fissures you see in the rocks today. These cracks weaken the integrity of the rock, making it more vulnerable to erosion. Over time, the erosion of these rocks eventually wears down to fine white sand. This sand is suspended in the sea water and, in time, deposited onto the beach by wave action.

Marine Life

Shells scattered on the beach are actually the cast-off external coverings of sea creatures. These shells are efficiently recycled back into nature by other marine animals and the pounding surf. The hermit crab uses the empty shells to create its own protective home. The giant green sea anemone attaches pieces of shell to its skin for disguise and for protection from the sun. Other shells are ground up by the motion of the waves and made available for marine animals to make new shells.

A world of marine organisms thrive under the white beach sand—worms, crabs, shrimp, and some creatures so small they can live in the tiny spaces between the grains of sand. When sea



water washes over the beach, it percolates down, carrying with it plankton and dissolved oxygen that nourishes these marine

animals. Each species that calls the rocky habitat home must be able to survive the crashing waves and submersion during high tides and the exposure to drying winds, sun, and rain during low tides. As you explore the tide pools, remember not to remove animals and plants from the rocks.

Harbor Seals

Harbor seals are in Monterey Bay year round. Frequently seen hauled out onto rocky outcroppings at low tide, these 300-pound marine mammals rest after feeding cycles. They are considered to be one of the world’s finest deep-sea divers. They can descend as deep as a quarter mile to catch their prey. Although they breathe air as we do, seals are built to remain underwater for remarkable periods— a dive of up to 30 minutes and 300 foot depth is common. Harbor seals spend time on dry land to molt, give birth, nurse, and care for their pups.

Whales

Every year, starting in late summer into fall, migrating humpback whales appear in Monterey Bay waters. The whales spend their summers in the nutrient-rich cold water, feeding on small fish and krill. When winter approaches, the whales travel south to the warmer waters of the tropic seas.

As humpbacks and blue whales depart Monterey, the Pacific gray whales begin arriving in November. Sightings increase each day until their numbers peak around the second week in January. Pacific gray whales travel round trip, about 12,000 miles each year, from the Chukchi Sea between Alaska and Russia to their breeding grounds in Baja California, Mexico, and then back to the Chukchi Sea.

Sea Otters

The sea otter is undeniably one of the most popular animals in Monterey Bay. Sea otters are fairly easy to spot because they spend most of their time floating on their backs, eating or sleeping in giant kelp fronds on the surface of the ocean. Its scientific name, *Enhydra lutris*, means “otter in the water.” This name is most fitting because otters spend almost all their lives in the ocean—they eat, sleep, mate, give birth, and feed their young at sea.

They are the most aquatic of all otters. Otters are the only marine mammal without a layer of fat to keep it warm in the cold ocean; its thick fur keeps it warm. The fur is the thickest of any animal in the world. It is so dense, it would be impossible to part it with a comb and see its skin. Otters have two types of fur—guard hairs are long, coarse strands, and the under fur is shorter, finer hairs. Clean fur is a matter of life and death for otters; it must be groomed and cleaned constantly. Otters use their sharp claws as a comb to scratch and brush the fur to untangle and clean it. Because the otter’s coat is loose on its body, it can pull it around to clean areas that are hard to reach.

Giant Kelp

Several different species of large, brown algae or kelp grow just offshore. Their “beds” of floating fronds and bulbs are frequently seen on the water’s surface. Kelp, also known as seaweed, attracts feeding sea otters, circling gulls, and diving cormorants. All this activity hints at the riches that lie below the ocean’s surface.

Giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) is the most common algae in the forest. It grips rocks on the ocean bottom with “holdfasts” and uses

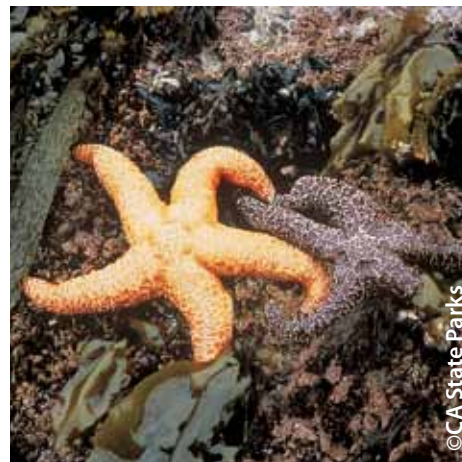
air-filled bulbs found at the base of each kelp blade to float the long fronds to the surface. This floating ability enables the kelp, which can reach over 90 feet high, to rise towards sunlight so photosynthesis can take place.

Giant kelp contains algin, a chemical common in many products we use. The extracted algin is an effective emulsifier and suspension agent in salad dressing, ice cream, fruit drinks, water-based paints, adhesives, food wrappers, toothpaste, surgical jellies and hand lotion.

Tide Pools

Along the rocky shoreline, tide pools form as sea water washes over the rocks and fills the natural depressions. Tide pools range from small, shallow puddles high up on shore to large, deep pools nearer the sea. The best time to explore tide pools is during the lowest of low tides that occur during a full moon or new moon phase.

Tide pools are home to dozens of different animals and plants. When sea water flows into the pools, it brings fresh oxygen and food to its inhabitants. Some animals spend their whole lives in one pool while others swim in and out with the tides. Between tides, some smaller pools become too warm and begin to dry up.



Many of the animals take shelter under cool, damp rocks and moist seaweeds so their bodies do not dry out before the tide comes in again.

The coastline at Asilomar is part of the Asilomar State Marine Preserve. All plants and animals are protected by laws. No fishing or collecting is allowed.

Tide pools closest to shore are home to the hardiest plants and animals. Some kelp varieties in this zone need “drying time” in order to release spores. Snails, limpets, and some barnacles nestle onto rocks and in crevices while hermit crabs scurry along the pool’s edge.

The next level in the intertidal zone is home to more delicate species, those which can only survive out of water less than six hours. This is where multi-colored sea stars drape over rocks and goose-necked barnacles and black mussels pack into tight mosaic crowds. In the water-filled pools, sea anemones open in flower-like shapes as their tentacles capture prey with a sharp paralyzing sting. If you are lucky, you may spot an immature green-colored, purple spiny sea urchin wedged in the rocks.

Brilliantly colored nudibranchs and sponges are found in the deepest pools. Small sculpin fish and rock prickleback dart about in search of food among the surf grass.

For all its splendid display, life in the tide pools is harsh. Forever at the mercy of the elements and constantly vulnerable to predators, the tide pool animals and plants are in an endless dance between life and death.

10 THINGS TO KNOW



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Rules to Keep Visitors Safe and Help Protect Asilomar's Natural and Cultural Environment

1. Park only in designated parking spaces to preserve Asilomar's habitats. Asilomar does not have motorhome, camper, or bus parking on premises. Oversized vehicles parked on site may be subject to citation.
2. The vehicle speed limit through Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds is 15 mph. Slower speeds may be appropriate as determined by pedestrians, wildlife, other vehicles, weather and visibility. Excessive speed may be subject to citation.
3. Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds is a California State Park open to all – conference attendees, overnight lodgers, and day visitors alike. Keep your personal belongings safe by locking lodging doors and windows when away from your room or vehicle.
4. Remember to walk on established roads and paved walkways to preserve fragile vegetation and prevent soil erosion.
5. Dogs on leash are welcome on Asilomar grounds while en route to the beach or coast trail. State law requires all dogs be on a 6-foot leash at all times at Asilomar State Beach due to safety, environmental, and disposal concerns. Only service dogs that are actively working are allowed inside buildings and guest rooms.
6. Open campfires or bonfires are not allowed on Asilomar State Beach due to safety, environmental, and disposal concerns.
7. Asilomar State Beach is part of the State Marine Preserve; animals, plants, and natural



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features are protected by State and Federal laws. Explore tide pools with your eyes and refrain from picking up animals or removing rocks, animals, plants or shells. Help protect our amazing tide pools for future visitors.

8. Asilomar Recycles! Do your part by throwing away all trash and recycle if you can. The concessionaire's Green Thread™ program recycles paper, plastic and metal. Recycling containers are located next to most buildings throughout the conference grounds and at the entrances to Asilomar State Beach.
9. Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds is a California State Park. California law prohibits smoking inside all buildings or within 20 feet of doorways and windows when outside the buildings. Help keep Asilomar beautiful by discarding cigarette butts in ash receptacles.
10. Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds is a sanctuary for a diversity of wildlife. Protect the park's wild animals by not feeding or teasing them – native wildlife may appear tame, but they

are not. Feeding wild animals and birds is more likely to cause harm than help. This can result in harm to humans, ecosystem imbalance, and animal nourishment problems. Although rare, mountain lion

sightings at Asilomar State Beach and the surrounding dunes habitat have occurred. Report all mountain lion sightings to the Asilomar State Park Office: 831-646-6440.

- An all-terrain beach wheelchair is available for guests with mobility limitations – please check at the front desk.
- A TTY device for guest use is available at the Conference Grounds front desk; dial 711TTY relay service.
- California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to your visit, visitors with disabilities who need assistance or wish to request accessible accommodations may do so through the Conference Grounds website: www.VisitAsilomar.com or by calling (831) 372-8016.
- This publication can be made available in alternate formats by contacting the Asilomar State Park office at (831) 646-6440.



HOW ABOUT THAT?



Q. Why do birds bite their tail?

A. Most birds have a special gland on their back end that gives off oil. When a bird squeezes or rubs this gland with its beak, oil oozes out. Then the bird works the oil into its feathers to smooth and waterproof them.

Q. How do squirrels find the acorns and pine nuts they bury?

A. Squirrels have a good memory. They seem to bury them near landmarks, e.g., this tree, that rock and so on. At other times, finding their stashed food is just luck. Squirrels also have a very good sense of smell. They may even sniff out and dig up pine nuts buried by them or other squirrels.

Q. What causes the small holes in the beach sand?

A. The two main causes for the small holes are birds and water. Some shorebirds forage in the sand for crabs, worms and insects, leaving behind holes. Water also causes "pinholes" when water sinks into dry sand and displaces the air between the sand grains. The displaced air rises to the surface in a series of bubbles that create small pinholes.

Q. What causes low and high tides?

A. Tides are caused primarily by the gravitational pull of the moon. Although the sun is much larger than the moon, the moon is closer to the earth and exerts more gravitational pull than the sun. The

moon's gravitational pull causes a movement of water like a massive "wave." One wave movement occurs on the side of the earth facing the moon and another wave occurs on the opposite side of the earth. The earth makes a complete revolution once every 24 hours. This constant motion puts different sections of the earth's oceans under the moon's gravitational influence during the course of a day, resulting in a daily cycle of two high tides and two low tides. However, this tidal cycle occurs, on the average, not every 24 hours, but every 24 hours and 50 minutes. The extra 50 minutes is due to the rotation of the moon around the earth.



ASILOMAR WILDLIFE



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Fit the words listed below into their proper places in the puzzle squares. The words are in alphabetical order according to the number of letters. The word "Gray Fox" is inserted to start you off. To begin, look for the 7-letter word that begins with "R". Continue in this manner until the puzzle is solved.

4-Letter Words

CROW, MASK

6-Letter Words

RED FOX, COYOTE, SPIDER

7-Letter Words

GRAY FOX, RACCOON, SEA LION
SEA STAR

8-Letter Words

SCRUBJAY

12-Letter Words

GREY SQUIRREL, MOUNTAIN LION

13-Letter Words

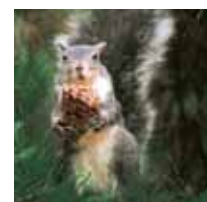
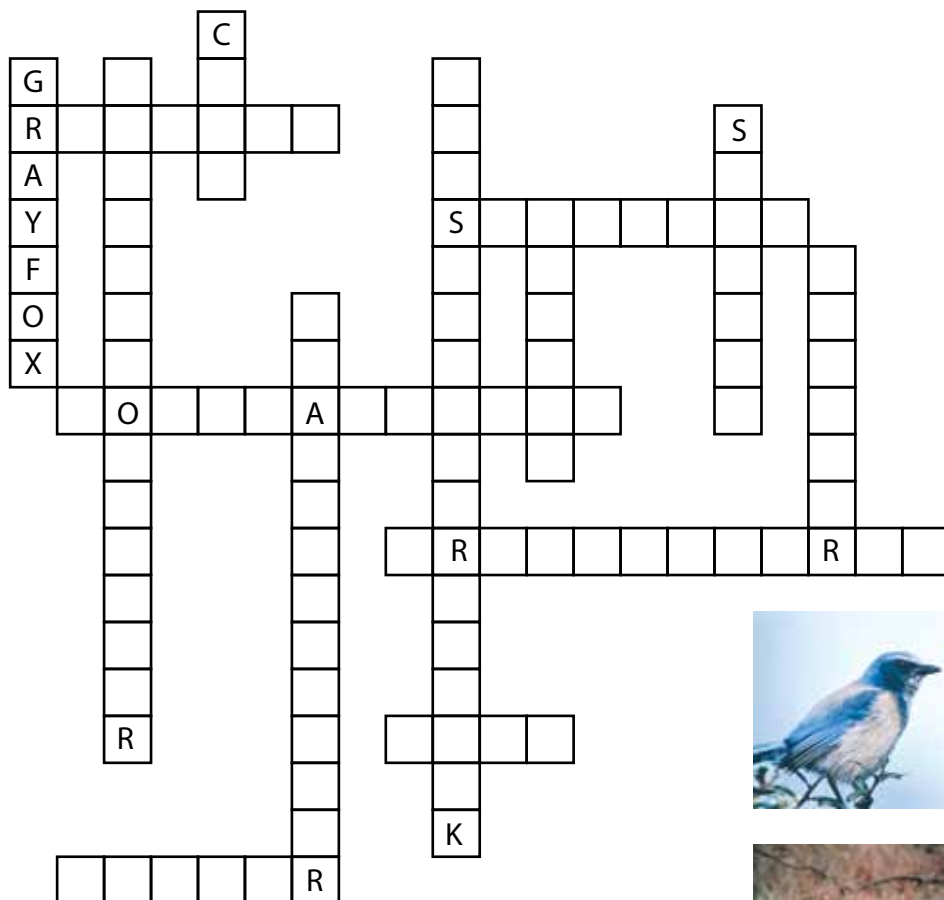
BLACKTAIL DEER

15-Letter Words

ACORN WOODPECKER

17-Letter Words

RED SHOULDERED HAWK



JR LIFEGUARDS

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Junior Lifeguards Program

A group of young people, ages 9 to 16, will have lots of fun this summer while learning to be safe in the ocean. The Junior Lifeguards program, operated by California State Parks, is a four-week program led by State Park Lifeguards.

Youngsters are exposed to first aid, CPR, oceanography, and beach and marine ecology. They experience swimming, surfing, snorkeling and kayaking in Monterey Bay, along with field trips to the Monterey Bay Aquarium,

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and Santa Cruz. Participants come away with a renewed respect for the beach environment and increased confidence in their knowledge and abilities in and around the ocean.

For information or to join this program, visit the website www.montereyjuniorlifeguards.com or call (831) 649-7144.

For information about Junior Lifeguards statewide, visit the State Park website at www.park.ca.gov/juniorlifeguards



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Jr. Lifeguards Competition



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Learning about Kelp Forests!

SHORT DRIVES



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There are many California State Parks located near Asilomar. You can explore the secluded trails of Point Lobos State Reserve, discover the rich Spanish and Mexican heritage of Monterey State Historic Park, and camp under starry skies at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Park information is available at www.parks.ca.gov.

Monterey State Historic Park
(831) 649-7118

Local State Beaches
(831) 649-2976

Point Lobos State Reserve
(831) 624-4909

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Parks
(831) 667-0528

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park (831) 623-4881

Henry W. Coe State Park
(408) 779-2728

Discover and enrich your Asilomar experience with Asilomar Self-guided-Walk park brochures available free at the front desk and at the State Park Office. Call the Asilomar State Park Office for a schedule of State Park-led tours of the Asilomar Conference Grounds at 831.646.6443.



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A Gift from the People to the People ...

During 2014, we will be observing the anniversary of our State Park System and the beginning of the park movement. California State Parks' 150th Anniversary allows us to reflect on, learn from, and share our history with all Californians. We are planning an amazing variety of events throughout the state, and I invite you to join us and attend activities in your favorite state parks. Please watch our website, follow us on social media, and stay tuned as we commemorate this momentous occasion.

**Major General Anthony L.
Jackson USMC (Ret.)
Director, California State
Parks**

In 2014, California State Parks turns 150 years old!

California State Parks commemorates the 1864 establishment of the first state park in the nation. On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill granting 39,000 acres of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California. Never before had land been set aside to protect its natural state for the public to enjoy. This historic legislation was the beginning of not only the California State Park System but the national park idea we know today.

For a current event calendar, check out the California State Parks' 150th Anniversary website: www.150.parks.ca.gov.

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

For information call:

(800) 777-0369;

(916) 653-6995, outside the U.S.

711, TTY relay service

www.parks.ca.gov

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